

A NEW SPECIES OF *SENECIO* (ASTERACEAE) FROM CHIAPAS, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Senecio tonii* B. Turner, from Chiapas, México is described. It belongs to the series *Palmatinervii* and is superficially similar to *S. oaxacanus* Hemsley, differing from the latter in having tomentulose pubescence, non flexuous stems, and pubescent corollas.

KEY WORDS: *Senecio*, Asteraceae, Mexico

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

*Senecio tonii* B. Turner, *sp. nov.* Fig. 1.

*Senecioni oaxacano* Hemsley similis sed caulibus non flexilibus, involucris tomentellis, et corollis pubescentibus differt.

TYPE: MÉXICO. Chiapas: Mpio. San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Santa Cruz en San Felipe, 15 Nov 1986, *Alonso Mendez Ton 9481*, with María C. Mtz. de Lopez (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

Shrub ca. 2 m high. Stems straight, moderately arachnoid pubescent with an understory of short glandular hairs. Larger leaves mostly 10-15 cm long, 8-12 cm wide; petioles 2-4 cm long; blades palmately nervate, puberulo-tomentose beneath at first, but subglabrate with age, 7-9 lobate, the lobes broader than long, the margins denticulate. Heads numerous, arranged in terminal corymbose panicles, the ultimate peduncles tomentose, mostly 4-10 mm long. Involucres 5.5-7.0 mm high, the bracts 8, tomentose below, beneath the vestiture scattered minute glandular hairs occur; the calyculus of 1-4 linear scales 1-3 mm long. Ray florets 3-5, pistillate, fertile, the tubes pubescent, the ligules 3-6 mm long, yellow. Disk florets 8-10, the corollas ca. 8 mm long, yellow, the tube 3-4 mm long, pubescent throughout with minute glandular

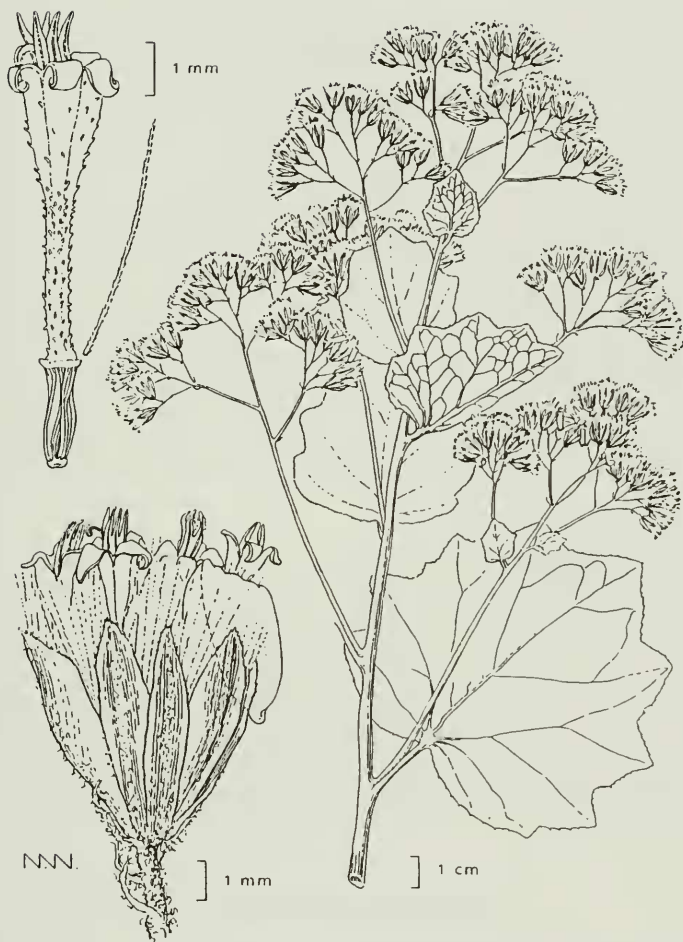


Fig 1. Senecio tonii, from holotype

hairs, the lobes 1.0-1.5 mm long. Achenes (immature) glabrous, the pappus of numerous white, readily detached bristles 5-6 mm long.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: MÉXICO. Chiapas: Mpio. San Cristóbal de Las Casas, "Steep slope with *Quercus* and *Drimys* on Cerro Iluitepec," 2700 m, 5 Dec 1971, *Breedlove 23034* (LL).

This taxon belongs to the series *Palmatinervii* of *Senecio* and is superficially similar to the widespread and highly variable *S. oazacanus* Hemsley (which includes *S. cordovensis* Hemsley, *S. cristobalensis* Greenm., *S. macrobritys* Hemsley, and yet other previously proposed taxa). *Senecio tonii* differs from *S. oazacanus* in having decidedly tomentulose involucre and peduncles, non flexuous tomentulose stems, and pubescent corollas. It is possible that the plants concerned are hybrid derivatives between *S. oazacanus* and some, as yet, unidentified parent, perhaps *S. acutangulus* Hemsley, which is similar to *S. oazacanus* but possesses tomentulose stems and pubescent achenes. Neither of the latter two taxa possess pubescent corollas (as does *S. tonii*); it is possible, however, that the latter character is transgressive. Regardless, to my knowledge, neither putative parent was collected with plants referable to *S. tonii*, thus the proposed species seems reasonably justified on evidence available at present.

Dr. T. Barkley (pers. comm.) suggested that *Senecio tonii* might be part of the variation of a widespread *S. acutangulus*, but it differs from the latter in possessing: smaller, pubescent corollas; shorter involucral bracts (5.5-7.0 mm vs. 8-9 mm high) which are pubescent with both small glandular hairs and a loose puberulence (vs. glabrous or nearly so, except for a loose puberulence at the very base; and stems straight, striate-terete, both minutely glandular pubescent and puberulent (vs. flexuous, 5 angulate, and tomentulose to glabrate). He agrees, however, that the combination of characters alluded to in the above, especially the pubescent corollas, are not matched by sheets to his disposal (or mine!) in *S. acutangulus*.

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